

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5482

UNCLAS NASSAU 727

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP AFSP BF

SUBJ: COMMERCIAL ACTION PROGRAM: APRIL MEETING OF BAHAMAS

COUNTRY TEAM TASK FORCE

REF: (A) STATE 69200, (B) NASSAU 439 AND (C) NASSAU 1880,

12/5/73

1. COUNTRY TEAM TASK FORCE, AGREED AT ITS MEETING APRIL 19 THAT CAP OBJECTIVES ARE BEING MET ON SCHEDULE. NO NEW SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES WERE REPORTED BUT TASK FORCE MEMBERS WILL CONTINUE ALERT TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING.

2. RE OBJECTIVE ONE: MINISTER OF WORKS SAYS THAT PRICES BEING QUOTED THE MINISTRY BY CERTAIN SUPPLIERS IN THE U.S. ARE HIGHER THAN CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH LOCAL FIRMS. TASK FORCE WILL DISCUSS THIS FURTHER WITH MINISTER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PROBLEM CAN BE OVERCOME.

3. RE OBJECTIVE 1-B. MEETING WITH CONSULTING ENGINEERS WILL BE SOUGHT BY MAY 1 (SEE PARA 3 OF REF A).

4. PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS ON OBJECTIVE 3 WERE DISCUSSED. DISCUSSIONS WITH DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, INDICATE THAT IMMIGRATION SERVICES' REACTION TO PROPOSAL IS NEGATIVE. SERVICE REASONS THAT SINCE AMERICANS COME TO THE BAHAMAS TO SELL WHILE BAHAMIANS GO TO THE U.S. TO BUY, THE U.S. IS ONLY SPITTING ITSELF BY IMPOSING THE \$300 B-1 FEE (EMBASSY HAP-UNCLASSIFIED

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PENS TO AGREE WITH THE ARGUMENT). TASK FORCE DECIDED THAT

NEXT STEP IS TO SEND A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

5. RE OBJECTIVE 6, AFTER DISCUSSION OF PRODUCT LINES FOR
MARKET RESEARCH TEAM AGREED ON CERTAIN PRODUCT LINES ON WHICH
RESEARCH WOULD BE SIMPLEST TO INITIATE TRAINING FOR FSL,
E.G. SCHOOL SUPPLIES, YET POSSIBLY BEAR FRUIT IN TERMS OF

ACTUAL SALES POTENTIAL.
SPIERS

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